Disney

the Lost Chords

The Aristocats

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"I cannot think about the pictorial story without thinking about the complimentary music which will fulfill it."

Walt Disney

Walt Disney's approach to storytelling and the important role music would play in the creation of his classic films demanded that his composers begin their work early during the development process. In fact, at the same time that Disney's artists were exploring story ideas, the look of the characters and the settings in pencil and paint, his composers were "sketching" those same things through melody and lyric. Thousands of pieces of artwork were created throughout each film's visual development stage and then stored away. And much music, too, experienced the same fate. Many songs were written for each film, but as storylines evolved and characters changed, many enjoyable pieces of music no longer fit the film's needs and were filed away, usually never to be heard again.

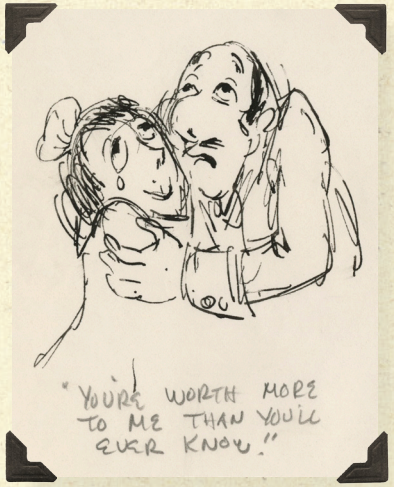
In the late 1990s I began searching the files and storage areas of the Walt Disney Music Library for these deleted songs and with the Walt Disney Music Company was able to publish full vocal/piano arrangements of many of them in two books titled *Disney's Lost Chords.* Almost immediately fans of the books asked if there would be any companion recordings, a wish that was enthusiastically echoed by Randy Thornton of Walt Disney Records – a wish that after many years is now being realized.

Walt Disney Records is therefore pleased to introduce this series of albums showcasing many of these forgotten songs. Represented by original demo recordings made during the film's production, often sung by the composers themselves, and complemented by new arrangements and recordings, we are delighted through this album to give further testament to the creativity of Disney's composers and the commitment of everyone involved in the making of these classic films to bring forth the very best in cinematic storytelling.

In 1962 Walt Disney gave the approval for the development of *The Aristocats* – as a live action feature! It was soon proposed to Walt that the story might be more suitable as an animated feature, and he agreed, adding that the Sherman Brothers should be involved in writing songs for the production. Early in their working relationship Walt had recognized the Shermans' musical abilities coupled with their sense of story in creating songs and he relied on them as his "go-to" composers. Redirecting the story to animation opened up the opportunity for additional comic situations and several new characters, among them the mouse, Roquefort, and the geese, Abigail and Amelia Gabble. One character from the live action feature remained for a while in the animated version before being dropped: the maid, Elvira. Released in 1970, *The Aristocats* was a box office success, both in the U.S. and abroad.

– Russell Schroeder

Russell Schroeder worked as an artist for The Walt Disney Company for twenty-nine years. In addition to *Disney's Lost Chords Volumes 1 & 2*, Russell authored several other books including *Disney: The Ultimate Visual Guide* and *Mickey Mouse: My Life In Pictures.*



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How Much You Mean to Me/Court Me Slowly – DEMO

Vocals: Richard M. Sherman (as Edgar) and Robert B. Sherman (as Elvira)
Words and Music by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
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The butler, Edgar, pursues Elvira, the maid, using the typical expressions of a lover's infatuation to mask his greedy desire to get his hands on her share of a hoped-for inheritance. For her part, Elvira is enthralled by the flattery, wishing to prolong every delicious moment of courtship.

How Much You Mean to Me/Court Me Slowly

Vocals: Corey Burton and Kate Higgins
Words and Music by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
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Walt Disney Records was pleased to have Richard M. Sherman involved in the creation of the new recordings of his and Robert B. Sherman's deleted songs from *The Aristocats*. Richard was there every step of the way, from working with the arranger, helping select the vocalists, all the way to mixing and mastering.

Le Jazz Hot – DEMO

Vocals: Richard M. Sherman
Words and Music by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
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Originally the leader of the musical alley cats was going to be named Satchmo Cat and voiced by the great Louis Armstrong. Louis Armstrong was a favorite of the Sherman Brothers and their song-writing father Al Sherman, and this song was written with Armstrong's performing style in mind. Unfortunately, the legendary entertainer became ill and was unable to fill the role. A new song, "Ev'rybody Wants to Be a Cat," was written by Floyd Huddleston and Al Rinker. The character was renamed Scat Cat and delightfully voiced by Scatman Crothers.

Le Jazz Hot

Vocals: Ty Taylor
Words and Music by Richard M. Sherman and Robert B. Sherman
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1. How Much You Mean to Me/Court Me Slowly – DEMO
2. How Much You Mean to Me/Court Me Slowly
3. Le Jazz Hot – DEMO
4. Le Jazz Hot

Produced by **Randy Thornton**
Recorded and Mixed by **Jeff Sheridan**
Arrangements by **Jerry Cleveland**
Liner Notes by **Russell Schroeder**

Special Thanks to **Jim Davy, Evan Acosta** and **Ted Kryczko**

Very Special Thanks to **Richard M. Sherman**

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